regular payment of wages and other statutory dues like PF, gratuity etc. after retirement to the workers of some Public Sector Undertakings. As and when such instances are brought to the notice of the Govt., the Public Sector Undertakings are asked to take urgent remedial measures by the administrative Ministry concerned. Some Public Sector Undertakings with delayed payment of wages/statutory dues are Jessop & Co. Ltd., Cycle Corpn. of India Ltd., IDPL, U.P. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., NTC (UP), NTC (MP), NTC (MN), NTC (Guj.) NTC (APK&M), NTC (WBAB&O), National Jute Manufacturers Corpn., Jute Corporation of India, etc.

Effect on non-tariff barriers on exports

1794. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-tariff barriers are impending exports of leather, textiles and carpets;

(b) what specifically are such barriers to exports to above products;

(c) whether any effort has been made to solve such problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Non-tariff barriers have an impact on export performance. Environmental stipulations in overseas markets relating to use of chemicals and dyes in the processing of leather anti-dumping and quota restrictions in case of textiles and stipulations concerning child labour in respect of carpets could be cited as some of the non-tariff barriers.

(c) and (d) Wherever the restrictions are considered justified an grounds of health & safety or environmental concerns steps are taken to comply with the same. In other case. the matter is raised bilaterally or in other appropriate fora for resolution.

Declining industrial production

1795. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial production has come down sharply during the last six months; if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the production during the corresponding period last year; and

(c) the measures Government have taken to revive the industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per Index of Industrial Production the overall industrial production in April-July, 1996-97 has recorded a growth of 9.3% as compared to growth rate of 12.3% recorded in the corresponding period of last year. The deceleration in industrial growth is confined to a few sectors particularly, the crude petroleum, fertilizers and power generation etc.

(c) Sector-specific strategies have been initiated to remove constraints in underperforming sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy are providing further impetus to growth.

Decline in export growth

1796. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sharp slow-down in exports growth is expected this year in comparison to that in the last year;

(b) if so, the export figures for 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (estimated) and the export growth recorded year to year, and